

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 493

By Powers

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Corey Gipson upon being named head coach of the men's basketball program at Austin Peay State University.

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to recognize those coaches whose dedication, integrity, and knowledge of the game help to mold the lives and minds of young athletes and usher them toward victory on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Corey Gipson, who was recently named head coach of the men's basketball program at Austin Peay State University, making him the fourteenth in this prestigious lineage of Governor head coaches; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gipson, a two-time Austin Peay graduate who played at the university for two seasons (2002–2004) and worked as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Dave Loos for three seasons (2012–2015), was the head coach at Northwestern State University during the 2022–2023 season; and

WHEREAS, in his first year as a head coach, Corey Gipson turned around a Demons program that won only nine games the year prior to his arrival; he led the team to a 22-9 record, a win at No. 15 Texas Christian University—the program's first win against an Associated Press Top 25 team since 2006—and a No. 2 seed in the Southland Conference Tournament; and

WHEREAS, after his lone year at Northwestern State, Coach Gipson is a finalist for the Ben Jobe Award, which is presented annually to the nation's top Division I minority coach; he is also a finalist for the Hugh Durham Coach of the Year Award, which is given annually to the top Division I mid-major head coach, and the Joe B. Hall Award, which is annually presented to the top first-time head coach at the Division I level; and

WHEREAS, prior to his time at Northwestern State, Corey Gipson spent seven years at Missouri State University, where he was associate head coach for six seasons; the Bears won thirteen games during his first year in Springfield, before averaging 17.8 wins per season during his six years after being promoted to associate head coach; and

WHEREAS, his previous experience also includes three years at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where he served as associate head coach for his final two seasons; he began his coaching career at Division II Virginia State University, where he worked as an assistant coach for longtime Austin Peay assistant coach Tony Collins; and

WHEREAS, a native of Sikeston, Missouri, Corey Gipson began his collegiate career at Three Rivers Community College, where he earned an associate degree before transferring to Austin Peay; during his prep career at Richland High School, he was a Missouri Mr. Basketball nominee during his senior season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gipson received his bachelor's degree from Austin Peay in 2004; during his two-year undergraduate career at the university, he was the men's basketball team's starting point guard, averaging 7.7 points, 2.1 assists, and 2.3 rebounds per game; knocking down ninety-four three-pointers; and helping the Govs become the top defensive team in the Ohio Valley Conference; and

WHEREAS, he earned his master's degree from Austin Peay in 2005, and in 2012, he was named the university's Young Alumnus of the Year; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, April, and their children, Jordan, Tanner, and Frankie; and

WHEREAS, not only is Corey Gipson an alumnus and a winner; he is someone who believes in the principles of the "Total Gov Concept": to expect success, attack challenges with enthusiasm, and believe there is a way to perform to one's fullest potential; his life and career represent each of these tenets; and

WHEREAS, we wish to congratulate Coach Gipson and welcome him to his new post at his alma mater; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Corey Gipson upon being named head coach of the men's basketball program at Austin Peay State University, extending our best wishes for much success in the seasons to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.